San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SBFJV) Project Adoption

Project Adoption has been a long-standing component of the SFBJV Conservation Program. As the SFBJV continues to grow, we are updating our Project Adoption Criteria to reflect our commitment to engage the broader conservation and restoration community in the SF Bay Area. We recognize that people and nature are intricately intertwined, and our updated criteria aim to reflect that ethos.

What is Project Adoption? Project Adoption is an endorsement by the SFBJV designating that the project contributes to the Bay Area's habitat and climate resilience goals as outlined in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy. The process includes presenting your project to the Conservation Committee, and separately, the SFBJV Project Adoption Team (PAT) evaluates your project as it relates to the project adoption criteria (below). The SFBJV Project Adoption process is intended to strengthen the project and its likelihood for funding and implementation.

Why Become a SFBJV Adopted Project? There are several perks associated with becoming an adopted project, including:

- **Strengthen Funding Competitiveness** - when applying to granting programs like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, EPA: Water Quality Improvement Fund, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- **Improve Project Design** - receive input from Conservation Committee members to improve design features that can strengthen the benefits achieved by your project.
- **Receive Letters of Support from SFBJV** - for project funding proposals and other opportunities.
- **Highlight in D.C. Policy Visit**- We include adopted projects and their funding needs in our D.C. educational materials during our annual policy trip and discuss regional priorities with our Congressional Representatives and staff.
- **Inclusion in Decision-Maker Tours** - SFBJV-adopted projects can be selected as a site for decision-maker tours with state and federal policymakers and staff.
- **Communications Feature** - Amplify your projects in a SFBJV quarterly newsletter or bi-monthly e-blasts that reach 1400+ subscribers across the region.

Who Can Submit a Project for SFBJV Adoption? Any organization, group of people, or individuals working in the environmental restoration and conservation space can request project adoption. Your project must be relevant to one of our habitat goals (see **Table 1** in the Resources section below). Entities encouraged to apply include, but are not limited to:

- Community groups (Community-based organizations, kayaking/birding groups, citizen coalitions, etc.)
- Tribes and Tribal organizations (regardless of federal or nonfederal recognition status)
- Government Agencies
- Non-profit Organizations
- Landowning and Land Managing Entities
- Private Sector

What are the Project Adoption Criteria? These criteria are used to determine if the SFBJV Management Board will adopt your project. **All projects must meet criteria #1, and at least two other criteria** listed below.

1) The project helps meet the habitat and climate resilience goals outlined in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy and will **protect, restore, and/or enhance # of acres of habitat type(s)** (See the Resources section below for SFBJV habitat types in Table 1, and definitions of terms: Protect, Restore, and Enhance).

2) The project is working to achieve **multiple benefits**; please list which benefits. For example (but not limited to), the project benefits economically disadvantaged communities, provides cultural site(s), improves public access, improves water quality, improves flood control, involves education, outreach, and/or workforce development.

3) There is **community support,** as demonstrated by community involvement in the project.

4) The project will be implemented **in partnership** with others, such as entities under the 'Who Can Submit a Project for SFBJV Adoption' section, individuals, and/or volunteers.

How Do I Apply? Apply by selecting your project phase: **Planning OR Implementation** - see Resources section for definitions. Then email the following information to SFBJV Conservation Coordinator, Jemma Williams:

1. A summary, such as an outline or brief paragraph, for each criterion your project meets;

2. The Project Information Form, **OR** a pre-application for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, or any grant for projects occurring in the SF Bay Area.

If your project is identified as a good candidate for project adoption, the Conservation Coordinator will include your materials from 1 and 2 above for the PAT to review before their meeting. PAT members will review each project's materials and discuss how each meets the adoption criteria before voting on whether to recommend each project to the Management Board.

Connection to the Conservation Committee (CC)
Project applicants are strongly encouraged to present their project at a CC meeting *prior* to applying for project adoption to receive feedback on the project design, goals, and approach. If applicants are unable to present before their project is reviewed by the PAT, any project ultimately adopted by the MB is required to present to the CC within 12 months of adoption.

When Will I Know if my Project is Adopted? The SFBJV Management Board meets quarterly and votes to adopt projects recommended by the Project Adoption Team. SFBJV staff will notify project applicants of their project adoption status after Management Board meetings.

My Project was Approved for Adoption, Now What? The SFBJV's Conservation Coordinator is available to help you if needed to upload your project into the SFBJV's Project Tracking tool, [Project Tracker](#), to be displayed on [EcoAtlas](#) **within two weeks of adoption approval**. To do this, you will need to create a [Project Tracker account](#), and once approved (usually 3-5 days), you will need your project information and 30-45 minutes to enter it into the tracker. Project managers will also be expected to annually update their project information in Project Tracker.

Once you have successfully uploaded your project into Project Tracker, please let the Conservation Coordinator know and provide your Project Tracker ID#, and if there are no further questions or edits needed, you will then receive your **Project Adoption Letter** and be added to the [SFBJV Adopted Project List](#).

Resources

Helpful Links:

- [Perks](#) of being a SFBJV adopted project
- [SFBJV Implementation Strategy](#), *Restoring the Estuary*
- [Checklist](#) for what to include when entering a project into Project Tracker
- [Project Information Form](#)
- [SFBJV Adopted Project List](#)
- [SFBJV Conservation Committee](#)
- [SFBJV Management Board](#)
- [Resources Page](#) on SFBJV website

Definitions:

- **Protection** (acquisition or conservation easement)
- **Restoration** (restoring habitat that was once present but is no longer present);
- **Enhancement** (increasing the ecological function or value of a habitat).

SFBJV Project Phases:

1. **Planning:** These projects include community-based visioning, conceptual design, and feasibility studies. The goals of these projects align with SFBJV priorities, but their specific elements are still being developed, including restoration projects at 30% design. This phase also includes people seeking SFBJV input for design improvements.
2. **Implementation:** These are projects at final or near-final (60%) design, permitted projects moving into on-the-ground action, such as construction, non-construction

projects (e.g., invasive removal, native plantings, acquisition), and fully designed
projects seeking implementation funding.

Table 1: Habitat types in the SFBJV Implementation Strategy

Table 1. Habitats for which the SFBJV updated (numeric acreage and/or functional) conservation goals.

SF Estuary	• Non-tidal Wetlands and Waters (Baylands) • Tidal Marsh (Baylands) • Tidal Flat • Beach • Submerged Aquatic Vegetation • Shellfish Beds • Open Water • Estuarine-Upland Transition Zone • Adjacent Uplands
Watersheds	• Lakes and Ponds • Seasonal Wetland and Vernal Pool Complexes • Stream Valleys (Alluvial Creek and Riparian zones) • Headwater Creeks and Source Areas
Outer Coast	• Beaches and Dunes • Cliffs • Rocky Intertidal • Coastal Estuaries (EmbaymentBay, Lagoonal Estuary - large and small) • Coastal Stream Valleys (Riparian)